Holiday 2012

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Holiday

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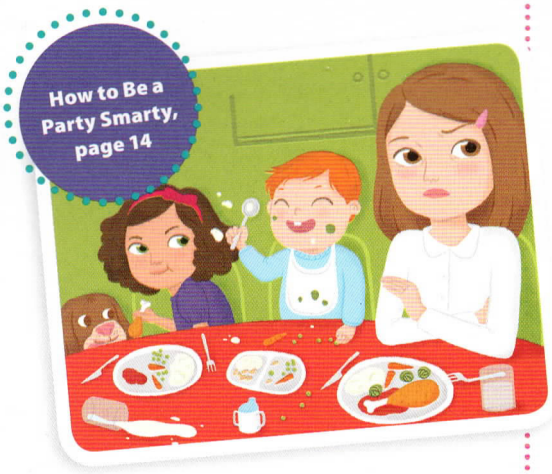

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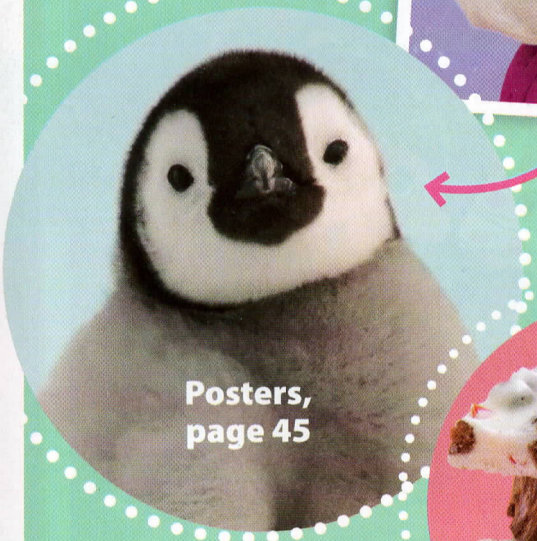

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Safety first!

Some of our projects and activities require an adult's help. When you see this symbol, be sure to ask an adult to work with you.

Sugarplum Party

Celebrate the sweetest season with a treat-themed sleepover!

Invitation

For a tasty invite, write your party details on a **gift tag.** Then tie the tag to a **candy cane** with **ribbon.**

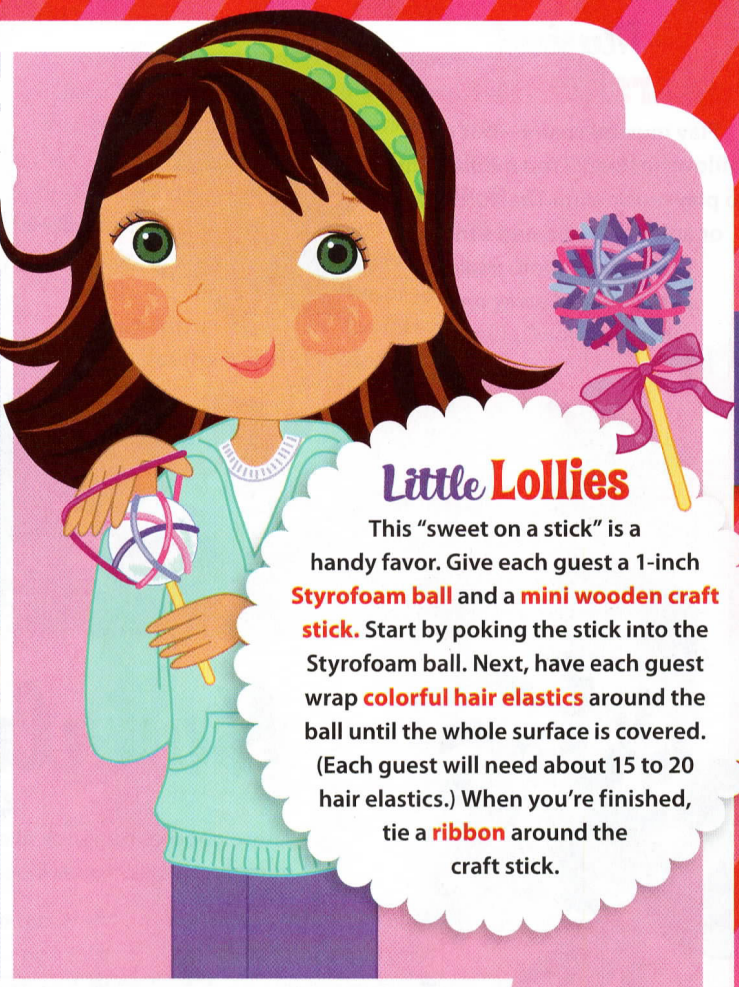
Land of Sweets

Transform your sleepover room into an enchanted land. First, ask an adult to help you hang sparkly **tulle** from the top of the door for a curtain. (Drape extra pieces of tulle around the room.) Next, have the adult help you hang **twinkle lights.** Finish with candy decorations: For gumdrop garlands, use a **sewing needle** to string **gumdrops** on **waxed thread.** Or tape **individually wrapped candies** end to end until you have a long rope. Then tie ribbons in between each one. (Hang garlands up high to keep them away from pets and younger siblings.)

Peppermint Steamers

Warm up with a minty treat!

Pour 4 cups of **milk** into a microwave-safe pitcher. Add 1 teaspoon **peppermint extract** to the milk. Ask an adult to heat the milk in the microwave until hot. Meanwhile, dip the rims of four mugs into a little **water** and then into a shallow bowl of **crushed candy canes.** When the milk is hot, ask an adult to pour it into the mugs. Sip slowly!



Little Lollies

This "sweet on a stick" is a handy favor. Give each guest a 1-inch **Styrofoam ball** and a **mini wooden craft stick.** Start by poking the stick into the Styrofoam ball. Next, have each guest wrap **colorful hair elastics** around the ball until the whole surface is covered. (Each guest will need about 15 to 20 hair elastics.) When you're finished, tie a **ribbon** around the craft stick.

Candy-Stripe Pillow

Make a "delicious" decoration for your room.

1. Ask a parent if you can cut off the leg sections from a pair of **tights.** Then cut off the ends of the leg sections so that you have two fabric tubes.

2. Place a roll of **paper towels** inside one of the legs, centering it inside the fabric tube. Stretch the other leg section around the roll so that you have a double layer of fabric.

3. Use scissors to cut off one leg from a pair of **tights** in a different color. Cut this fabric into five 2-inch-wide bands.

4. Stretch each fabric band over the paper towel roll so that your pillow has stripes.

5. Tie off the pillow's ends with **ribbon.** Trim extra fabric from both ends.

Musical Marshmallows

Play musical chairs—but use **pillows** instead! (You might want to play music from *The Nutcracker* or any candy-themed songs.) After each round, make sure you take away one "marshmallow" pillow.

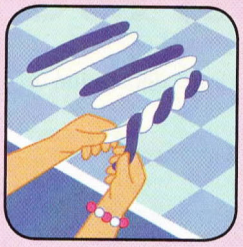
Swirly Pops

These goodies may look like lollipops, but they're really yummy cookies. You will need:

- ½ cup butter, softened
- ½ cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- ¼ cup powdered sugar
- ½ cup milk
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3½ cups flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- Food coloring
- Sprinkles

1. First, ask an adult to cream butter, shortening, sugar, and powdered sugar. Then have the adult beat in milk, egg, and vanilla extract. Add flour and salt a little at a time.

2. Divide the dough in half and place in separate bowls. Add 10 drops of food coloring to one of the halves. Stir the dough until the color is mixed in. Cover both bowls and refrigerate for 1 hour.



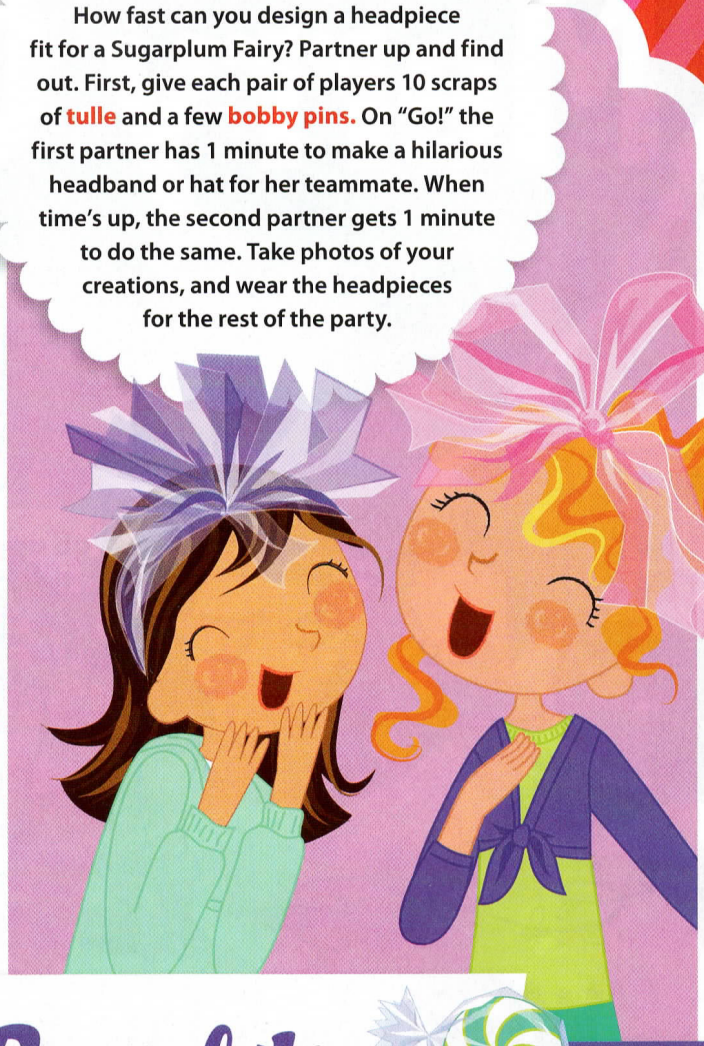
3. Roll 1 tablespoonful of each color dough into 6-inch ropes. Place a rope of each color side by side so that they touch. Carefully twist the ropes together.

4. Holding one end in place, coil the twisted rope into a spiral. Use a spatula to set the spiral on a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper. Poke a cookie stick (available at craft stores) into the spiral and place on cookie sheet. Repeat steps 3 and 4 until you have a full pan.

5. Ask an adult to bake cookies in a 350-degree oven for 15 minutes. Sprinkle warm cookies with candy sprinkles. Let cool.

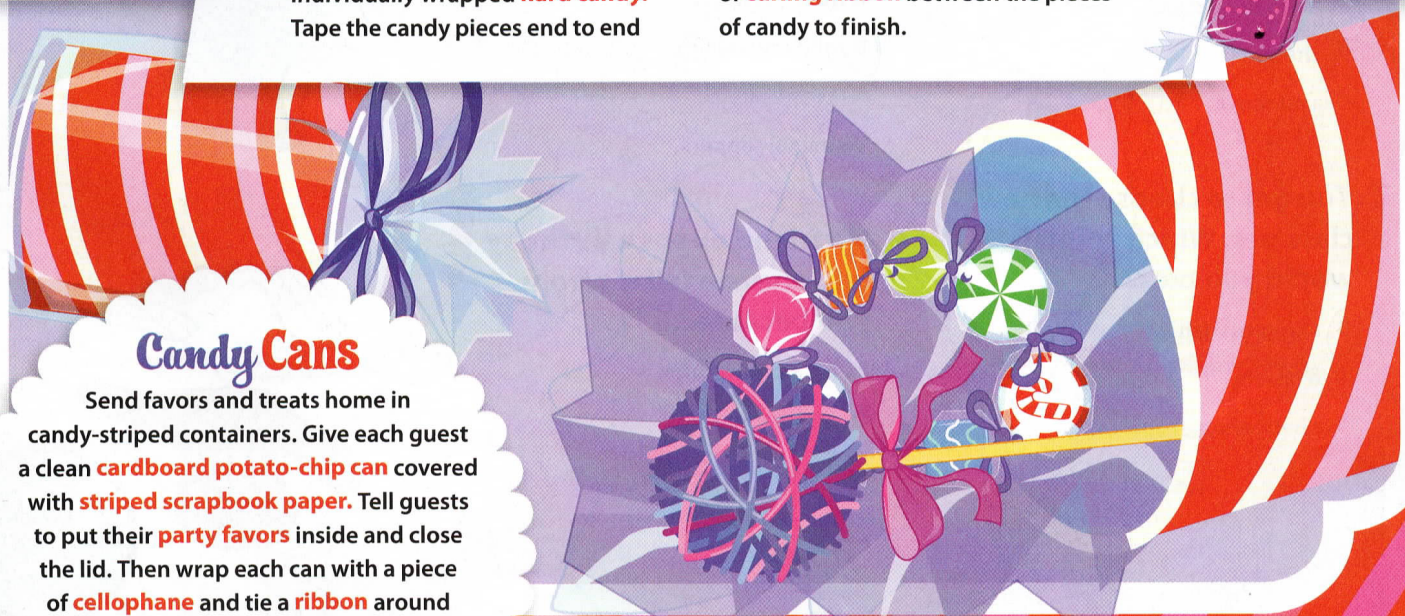
Fairies in a Flash

How fast can you design a headpiece fit for a Sugarplum Fairy? Partner up and find out. First, give each pair of players 10 scraps of **tulle** and a few **bobby pins.** On "Go!" the first partner has 1 minute to make a hilarious headband or hat for her teammate. When time's up, the second partner gets 1 minute to do the same. Take photos of your creations, and wear the headpieces for the rest of the party.



Bonbon Bracelets

A treat for your wrist! For this craft, you'll need a colorful assortment of individually wrapped **hard candy.** Tape the candy pieces end to end using **clear tape** until you have a circle that can slide on your wrist. Tie pieces of **curling ribbon** between the pieces of candy to finish.



Candy Cans

Send favors and treats home in candy-striped containers. Give each guest a clean **cardboard potato-chip can** covered with **striped scrapbook paper.** Tell guests to put their **party favors** inside and close the lid. Then wrap each can with a piece of **cellophane** and tie a **ribbon** around the top. Sweet!

Illustrations: Carol Yoshizumi

Merry Quizzes

'Tis the season for holiday quizzes!

Which holiday decoration are you?

1. If you could be anything in the sky, you'd be...

a. a shooting star.

b. the sun.

c. a rainbow.

2. You get to choose the new class pet. Which animal would you pick?

a. a tropical fish

b. a rabbit

c. a hedgehog

3. If you had a closet just for accessories, it would be filled with...

a. glittery jewelry.

b. cozy scarves.

c. animal slippers.

4. If a friend opens a birthday gift, she can tell it's from you because...

a. it's a bright color.

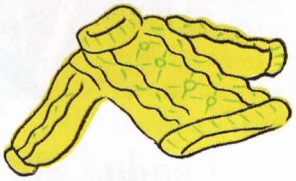
b. it's handmade.

c. it makes her laugh.

5. Which sweater do you like best?

a.

b.



c.

Go to page 11 for answers.

What should you do if you are snowed in?

1. If you were written about in a newspaper, it might be for…

a. winning a cooking competition.

b. publishing a book.

c. climbing a mountain.

2. Your favorite breakfast is…

a. a blueberry muffin.

b. a yogurt parfait.

c. an omelet topped with salsa.

3. If you found an old treasure map, you'd…

a. think about who to share the treasure with.

b. try to imagine the person who buried the treasure.

c. gather up your friends to go on an adventure.

4. What would you do to raise money for a charity?

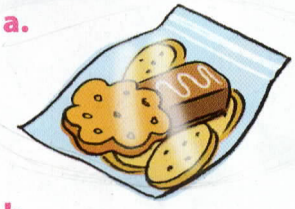
a. have a bake sale

b. paint pet portraits

c. organize a run

5. Which of these items could we find in your locker?

a.



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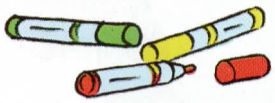


c.

Go to page 11 for answers.

Illustrations: Josée Masse

Which holiday song are you?

1. When you open a gift, you...

a. open it slowly, enjoying the anticipation.

b. quickly tear off the paper—you're too excited!

c. tell the gift giver that you like the wrapping paper.

2. On a cold day, you like to...

a. sit next to a warm fire.

b. invite buddies over for hot chocolate.

c. go shopping for cute sweaters.

3. When your homework is finished, the first thing you do is...

a. read a book.

b. call a pal.

c. organize your room.

4. Which of these scents do you like best?

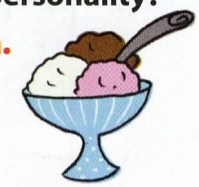
a. Lavender

b. Peppermint

c. Cinnamon

5. Which treat matches your personality?

a.



b.

c.

Go to page 11 for answers.

What would we find in your stocking?

1. You dream of winning tickets to...

a. see your favorite singer in concert.

b. a fashion show.

c. an art exhibit.

2. What do you do if you need extra good luck?

a. Listen to an upbeat song

b. Wear a friendship bracelet

c. Use a colorful pencil

3. If you could plan a fancy party, it would have...

a. live music.

b. guests in glitzy gowns.

c. over-the-top decorations.

4. In a museum, the exhibits you think are interesting might have...

a. old musical instruments.

b. antique clothing.

c. beautiful paintings.

5. In school, you learn best by...

a. listening to what the teacher is saying.

b. looking at the pictures in your textbook.

c. taking notes and making sketches.

Go to page 11 for answers.

Which gift are you?

Go to page 11 for answers.

1. What is the thing you like most in your room?

a. A photo of your soccer team

b. A handmade pillow

c. A silly animal poster

2. On a computer, you can usually be found...

a. chatting with friends online.

b. reading craft blogs.

c. watching hilarious videos.

3. Which after-school club would you join?

a. Dance Club

b. Knitting Club

c. Board Game Club

4. Which of these activities would be fun to do with your dad?

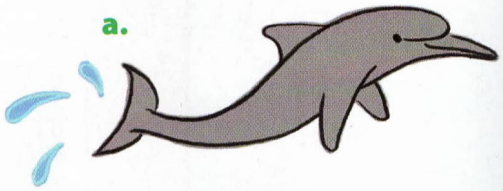
a. play a sport together

b. paint an old chair you found in the attic

c. see a funny movie

5. If you lived in the ocean, you'd be a...

a.



b.

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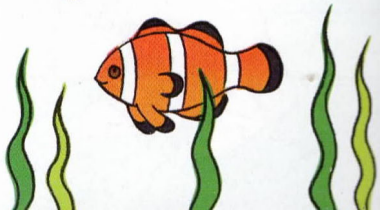
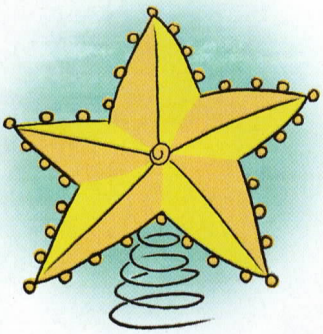




Which holiday decoration are you?

Mostly a's: A sparkly tree topper. You love being in the spotlight, so you're sure to shine as a star topping the tree.

Mostly b's: A scented candle. You have a warm, caring personality that glows just like a holiday candle.

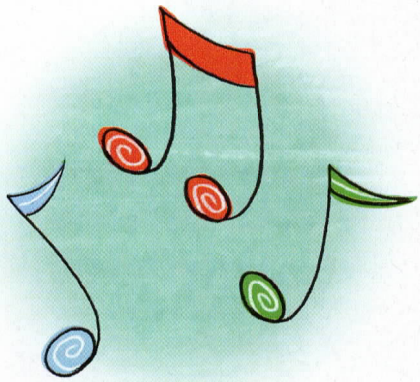
Mostly c's: A light-up reindeer. Cheering people up is your talent. As a cute reindeer, you'd put smiles on the faces of those passing by.

What should you do if you are snowed in?

Mostly a's: Bake treats. What's the best thing to do when it's chilly outside? Warm up family members with fresh-from-the-oven cookies.

Mostly b's: Draw pictures or write stories. Since you are a dreamer, you could spend your snow day brainstorming and using your imagination.

Mostly c's: Play in the snow. You're not staying inside, adventure-loving girl—there are forts to build and snowpeople to make!



Which holiday song are you?

Mostly a's: "Silent Night." Known for being cool and calm, you help those around you feel relaxed.

Mostly b's: "Jingle Bells." Friendly and fun, you have a giggle everyone can recognize wherever you go.

Mostly c's: "Deck the Halls." Your favorite thing about the holidays is—what else?—decorating! You're a girl who loves to spread holiday cheer.

What would we find in your stocking?

Mostly a's: A mini MP3 player. You can usually be found with a favorite song on repeat or practicing your instrument—everyone knows that you love music.

Mostly b's: Lip gloss. Since you're never without your trusty tube of lip gloss, it would be fun to get new flavors!

Mostly c's: A set of colored pencils. Colorful and creative, you'd be happy to get art supplies in your stocking.

Which gift are you?

Mostly a's: Gold wrapping paper with a silver bow. Your bubbly, energetic personality would stand out in a pile of gifts.

Mostly b's: Painted wrapping paper with a fabric bow. Crafty and unique, you'd be a present wrapped with love and covered in homemade flair.

Mostly c's: Comic pages from the newspaper. With your sense of humor, you'll make someone laugh even before she opens the gift! ★

Dream Tree

Make glittery ornaments for her tree, and give your doll lots to see!

Design itty ornaments from season-specific **3-D stickers.** Shape a small loop from **silver cord,** and press the loop ends to the adhesive back of the sticker.

Add twinkle to the tree with **glittery pre-cut cardboard shapes.** Use a **Glue Dot®** to attach a looped cord to the back of the cardboard.

'Tis the season for **sparkly pom-poms.** Stick a Glue Dot to the top of the pom-pom, and attach a looped cord.

Pull out your circle, star, or snowflake **paper punches** and create ornaments from **glitter paper.** Use a Glue Dot to attach a looped cord to the back. ★

How to Be a PARTY SMARTY

With these tips, you can have fun at any party!

by Emma MacLaren Henke

Pleased to Meet You!

At most parties, you're going to meet new people—or at least folks who haven't seen you "since you were a teensy-weensy baby in diapers." These tricks will keep their names on the tip of your tongue!

Repeat After Me

Say people's names aloud when you're introduced to them. When Mom says, "Matilda, this is Grandma's old friend Mr. Krenshaw," you could say, "It's nice to meet you, Mr. Krenshaw." Just saying a name out loud really helps it stick in your brain.

Letter Luck

Try to spot something about the person you're meeting that starts with the same letter as her or his name. For example, maybe Mrs. Bixby is wearing a gold and black dress. Think of her as Mrs. Bixby the bumblebee, and *silently* say this to yourself a few times.

Rhyme Time

Think of something about the person that rhymes with her or his name. Maybe you meet your long-lost Uncle Mort, and you can tell from his clothes that he's a huge football fan. Think, *"Uncle Mort likes sports!"*

Chat Champ

After introductions, it's time to talk!

Get Your Mouth Moving

* To start a conversation, ask about someone you and the person you're talking to both know: "How did you meet my grandma, Mr. Krenshaw?"

* Ask about something you can both see: "That's a beautiful crocodile pin, Aunt Edna! It really brings out the green in your eyes. Where did you get it?"
* Ask about current events you're both familiar with: "Did you get a chance to see that world-record-sized pumpkin they grew right down the road from here? What'd you think of it?"

Go with the Flow

To keep things going, both people need to ask *and* answer questions. A yes-or-no question is like a conversation stop sign. "You're a doctor, right?" doesn't give the person you're talking to anywhere to go. "What's it like to save lives?" keeps the conversation moving.

Top Talk Tips

* People love to talk about themselves. So ask!
* Even though people love to talk about themselves, some subjects—such as money, weight, and age—are private. Try not to be nosy.
* The secret to a great chat is paying attention to what the other person says. Stay focused, and you'll be well on your way to tip-top talk!

Illustrations: Julia Bereciartu

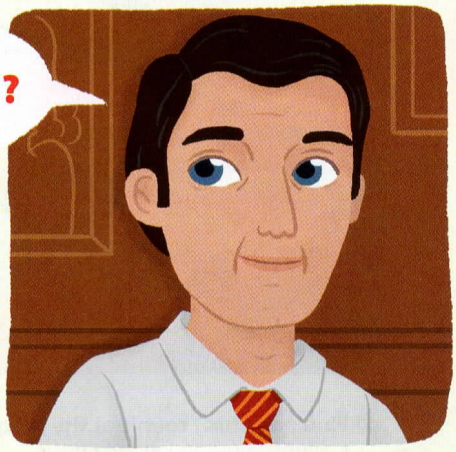
Q & A (Answers to the questions adults love to ask!)

Got a boyfriend?

Aaargh! If you have a boyfriend and want to talk about him, great! If not, say something like, "Nope, but I'm sure having fun with my friends from the swim team lately." Then change the subject quickly: "What did you and your friends like to do when you were my age?"

WARNING: Whatever you say, don't say, "Fine." Even if it is fine! Instead, talk about a school subject or club or sport you love. Or just talk about something else you're into. If you love e-books, for instance, you could say, "Have you seen this new e-reader? Let me show you how it works!"

How's school?

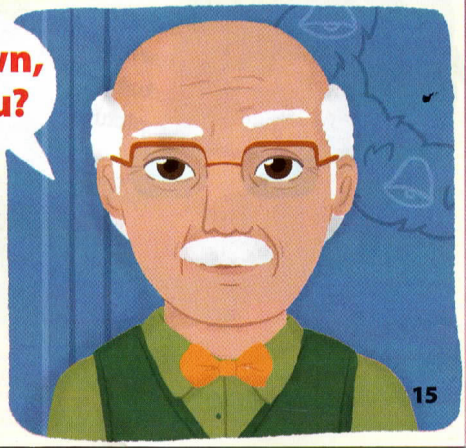


What do you want to be when you grow up?

If you know, this question is easy. If not, just talk about the things you like now. The fun part of this question is that it lets you ask the person you're talking to what she wanted to be when she was your age. Maybe Ms. Shetland is a lawyer—but she wanted to be a pony trainer. Find out what made her change her mind!

Even if you're exactly the same size you were last year, you've got to answer. Try, "Yes, I haven't seen you in a while." Then talk about something interesting that's happened to you recently. Whatever you do, *never* tell an adult, "You've grown, too!"

You've grown, haven't you?



Party Pastimes

When conversation winds down, these ideas keep the fun going!

Question Contests

* Try to figure out if, among all the guests at the party, you've been to all 50 states. Remember when Grandpa and his friend went on that Alaskan cruise? Check that state off your list. And Mom says Uncle Mort went to the University of Alabama. Only 48 states to go!

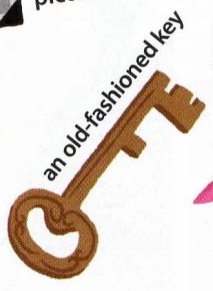
* Find out which couple at the party has been married for the longest time, and ask them to share their secrets to happiness.
* Go on a pocket scavenger hunt. Ask guests to look in their pockets, purses, and wallets for…

a Canadian coin

an expired coupon

a black-and-white baby picture

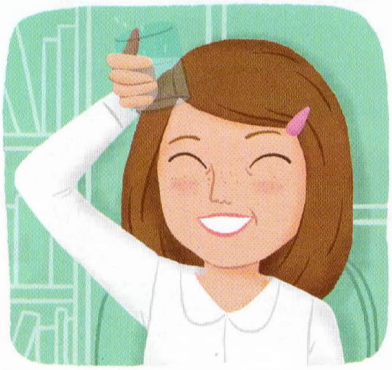
a mini orange candy



an old-fashioned key

Wacky Wagers

* Bet Aunt Paulette that you can jump across the driveway. When she says, "I don't believe it," go outside, cross the driveway, and jump up and down.



* Bet the person sitting next to you at dinner that you can stay under water for more than a minute. When she says, "I'd like to see that," just hold a glass of water over your head.
* Bet your cousin Ed that you can stand two inches from him and he still won't be able to touch you. When he says, "No way," go to the nearest door and ask him to stand right in front of it. Then go to the other side of the door and push it closed!

Party Survival Kit

Stuff a small tote bag with…

* Special awards or photos you'd love to talk about

* a digital camera
* a deck of cards

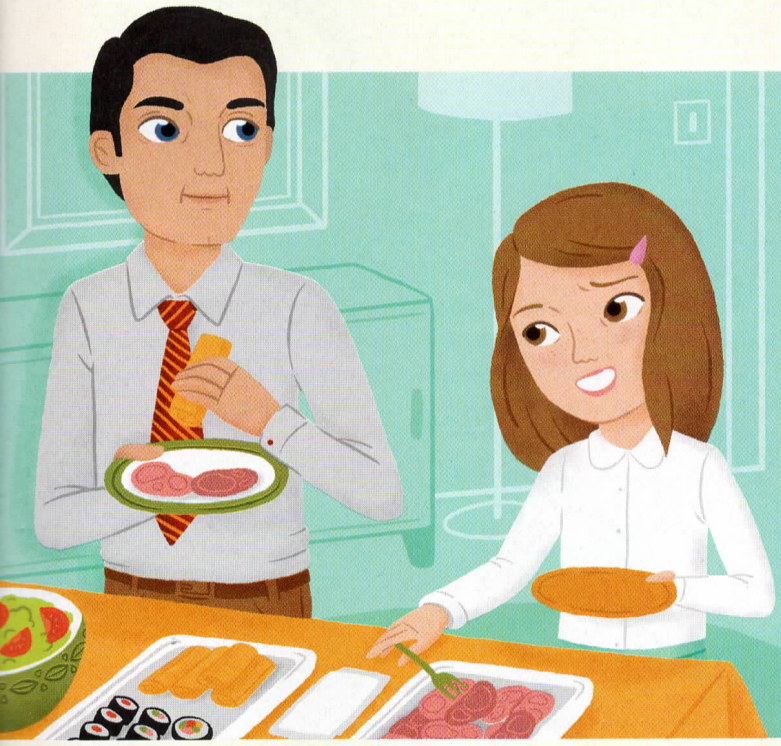
* mints (Everyone will be grateful when you offer to share after dinner.)

Sticky Situations

Even the smartest partygoer gets into tough spots. Here's how to make your way through some common party perils.

Kid Commotion

No matter how dazzling your conversation skills are, sometimes you're going to get stuck at the kids' table—even if all the other kids are 3 or 4 years old and you're 11. If this happens to you, you can still have fun trying to keep the younger kids happy. Play games, tell jokes, and make sure the kids don't put their food where it doesn't belong. Nap time will eventually roll around, and you'll get your chance to join the party again.



Mystery Meat

Faced with unfamiliar foods? If you're curious about what something is or how it tastes, talk to someone who's eating it already. Be polite when you ask about the UFO (unidentified food object). You might say, "I've never tried that before. What does it taste like?" Trying new things can be fun. But remember, once you put something into your mouth, there's no good way to take it out!

Don't know *how* you should eat something? Watch other party guests to see what they do. If Mr. Munch eats that egg roll with his fingers, then you can, too.

Petiquette

Most everyone loves animals. When you're at a party, it's fine to pat the host's pet, but don't hog the dog. Even if you know Sir Poochy is there . . . somewhere . . . hiding beneath the basement stairs or in the coat closet, it's best to leave him alone. Some pets just do not like big groups of people. So focus on the two-legged party animals!

On your way out, don't forget to thank the hosts. If you've followed our tips, they'll thank you, too, for being such a great guest! ★

Candy Bark

Make unique treats for the holidays using your favorite mix-in combos.

YOU WILL NEED

- an adult to help you
- candy coating for melting—white, milk, or dark chocolate
- assorted mix-ins, broken to bite-size
- wax paper
- baking sheet
- zip-top bag
- rolling pin
- microwave-safe bowl
- wooden spoon

1. Wash your hands. Cover a baking sheet with wax paper. Make sure that your hands, bowl, and utensils are completely dry.

2. Prepare mix-ins. To crush cookies or other items, place several in a zip-top bag and use a rolling pin to break them up. Ask an adult to help if needed.

3. Ask an adult to microwave bark chocolate in a bowl for 30 seconds at a time until melted. Stir with a wooden spoon until smooth.

4. Stir in mix-ins until coated. Add more as needed.

5. Ask an adult to pour the mixture onto the wax paper. Use the wooden spoon to spread the mixture thinly and evenly. If you want, sprinkle extra mix-ins over the top of the bark.

6. Let cool completely, and then break into 2-inch pieces. Place in an airtight container. Store in the refrigerator so that the chocolate doesn't re-melt.

The Gift of Bark

Give a delicious present! Package bark in a tin lined with wax paper, or place a few pieces in a cellophane food bag and tie with a pretty ribbon. Add a tag with your bark's flavor and a sweet message.

Photos: Ballard Photography; Illustrations: Monika Roe

White chocolate
Crushed candy canes
Chocolate cereal
Milk chocolate
Mini marshmallows
Graham cereal
White chocolate
Toasted coconut
Toffee chips
Milk chocolate
Cashews
Pretzels
White chocolate
Crushed gingersnaps
Dried cranberries
Milk chocolate
Peanuts
Peanut-butter cereal
White chocolate
Maraschino cherries
Crisp rice cereal
Milk chocolate
Granola
Almonds
Note:
Use paper towels to dry the cherries. Also try pouring the melted candy onto the cherries, instead of stirring them in. Moisture can change how the candy sets!

COUNTDOWN TO NEW YEAR'S

Good-bye, 2012—hello, 2013! Here are ten ways to celebrate the new year.

10. Time Trinkets

Make a 2013 memory box. With a parent's permission, decorate an old shoe box. Fill the box with school papers, cards from friends, and photos. Next December, it'll be fun to look back at your 2013 keepsakes.

9. Group Goal

Make a New Year's resolution with friends or family. With a few pals, think of something you want to accomplish together, such as improving your spelling grades, and encourage each other to stick with it. Or make a family resolution such as, "During dinner, no TV or cell phones."

8. Mark Your Calendar

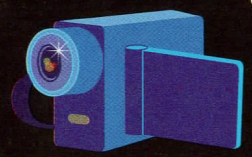
Get a blank wall calendar or planner and decorate it however you like. Write down important dates, such as vacations and friends' birthdays. Looking at all of the fun things you'll get to do will get you excited about the coming year.

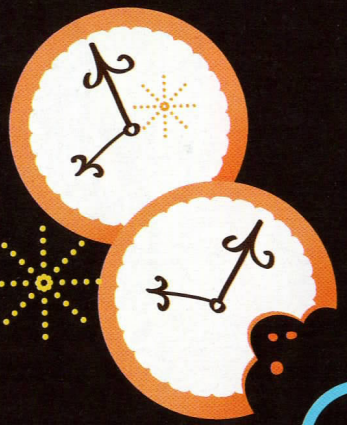
6. Glitter Greetings

Make New Year's cards to pass out to your friends. Start with glittery scrapbook paper, add stick-on rhinestones, and use bright markers. On the front, write, "Happy 2013!" or "Wishing You a Sparkly New Year." Your friends will love getting unexpected cards.

5. Family Memories

Make your own "TV show" about 2012 family events. While someone films you, talk about the fun your family had. Share silly stories, favorite moments from vacations, and accomplishments. Watch the video with your family and look back on your year together.





3. Ticktock Treats

During the movie, snack on some "clock cookies." Spread vanilla frosting on plain sugar cookies, and then draw the clocks' hands using gel icing.

2. Future Fun

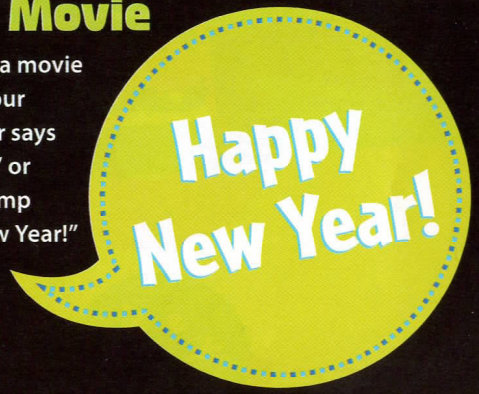
With your family, try to guess what might happen in 2013. On slips of paper, write down predictions for the coming year. Put them in a jar, and don't read them until the next New Year's Eve. See if any came true!

7. Clean Slate

A new year is the perfect time to get organized. Clean out your closet, under your bed, and your desk drawers, and with a parent's permission, set aside items to donate. Don't forget to clean out your backpack, too. Out with the old; in with the new!

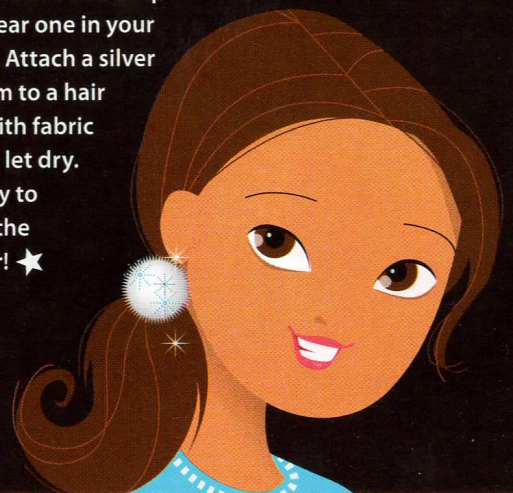
4. Midnight Movie

On New Year's Eve, watch a movie from the past year with your family. Every time an actor says the words "happy," "new," or "year," everyone has to jump up and shout, "Happy New Year!"



1. Bling in the New Year

While you're watching the New Year's Eve ball drop on TV, wear one in your hair, too. Attach a silver pom-pom to a hair elastic with fabric glue and let dry. Get ready to shine in the new year! ★



Illustrations: Stacy Peterson

Goody Bags

Give bags of mini gifts to your friends and family for the holidays!

Glitter Girl

This bag is full of sparkly surprises. Include glittery items such as **nail polish, jewelry,** and **magnets.**

Photos: Radlund Photography, Mike Walker. Styling: Jessica Nordskog

Snow Cool

Wrap up some frosty fun! Include items such as **peppermint lip balm, candy canes,** and fun **erasers** shaped like snowflakes and wintry creatures. Decorate the bag with AG's Holiday Stickers.

Cookie Lover

Fill a bag with supplies for decorating cute cookies. Include **candy sprinkles, cookie cutters,** and **colorful napkins.** Add a **fun note** for the perfect package.

Chock-full of Chocolate

Give a bagful of the sweet stuff! Include everything **chocolate,** such as **candy bars, mini chocolates,** and **hot cocoa mix.** (Wrap chocolate bars in **scrapbook paper** to make the gift extra special!)

Fun & Games

Round up mini toys and games for a brother or friend. Include items such as a **fingerboard keychain, rubber lizard, hacky sack,** and **food-shaped erasers.**

Dazzle a Desk

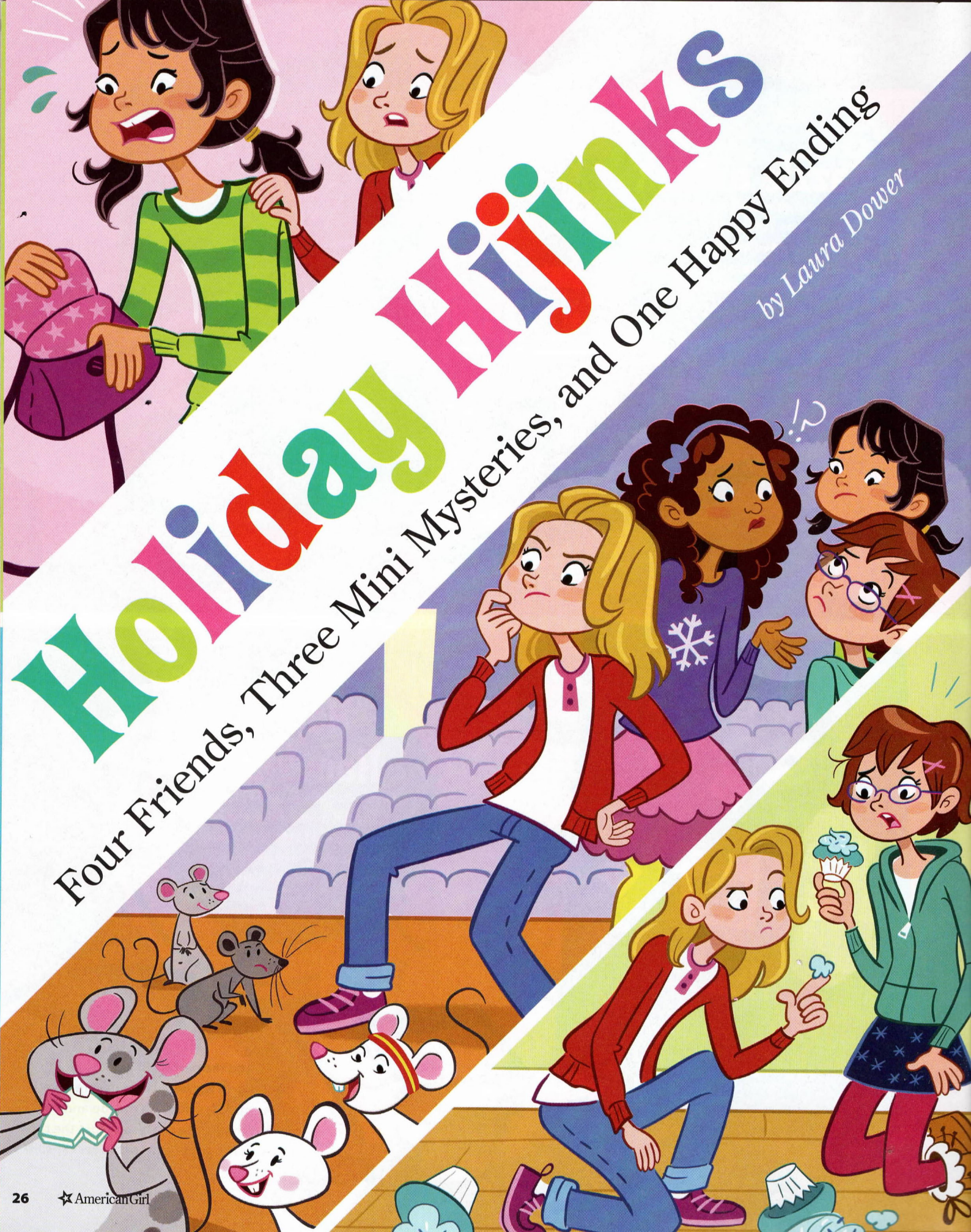
Decorate your mom's or dad's desk by giving a bag of colorful supplies. Include a **notepad** and **pen,** a **memo clip** with a **nice note,** and a miniature **photo album** filled with **photos of you!**

Happy Hanukkah

Give a Hanukkah gift! Fill a bag with special goodies like **chocolate gelt, toy dreidels,** and a **mini notebook.** Decorate the bag with AG's Holiday Stickers.

Finishing Touch

To add the perfect final touch, fold the top of the bag. Then, get creative! Punch holes through the top and tie with ribbons. You can also secure the top with colorful paper clips or binder clips. ★



Holiday Hijinks

Four Friends, Three Mini Mysteries, and One Happy Ending

by Laura Dower

"Attention, students!" Principal Higgins barked over the loudspeaker. "It's time for our school holiday festival. And you know what that means? Fun!"

I sighed to myself. I wasn't so sure about that.

Last year, my Secret Santa never showed up for the school holiday party, so I went home empty-handed. The year before that, I spilled hot chocolate all over my pants, which I had to wear for the rest of the day. And in first grade, I was cast as Rudolph in the classroom play. The red rubber nose I wore turned my *real* nose red.

During the holidays, I seem to stand out at school for all the wrong reasons.

I stared at the minty green holiday flyer taped to the classroom wall.

I was not looking forward to any of it. At least there were those trays of frosted cupcakes lined up on the table at the back of the classroom. One of the class moms, Mrs. Wu, had baked these perfect, silvery blue cupcakes with silver sprinkles on top.

Mmm, cupcakes. They looked delicious.

Ms. Finkel tapped on a desk with her ruler.

"OK, class!" Ms. Finkel cried. "Time to gather our things and head to the holiday boutique."

We scrambled to line up quietly. I stood in line with my best friends, Emma Craig and Olivia Rogers, and another girl in our class, April Wu.

"Hey, Vanessa," April asked me on the way upstairs, "how much did you bring to spend?"

I shrugged. "I don't know. Ten bucks?" I fished for my money in my pocket.

"I've been saving since summer for the boutique," April said, clutching her little purple purse like she'd just robbed a bank. "I want to get my mom and dad a super-special present."

I saw Emma and Olivia roll their eyes when April said that. They think she brags too much. But I was glad that April didn't see them make a face. Her feelings might have gotten hurt.

As we entered the library together, my jaw dropped. It was hard not to feel festive in this room. The boutique was done up like a white wintry landscape, and the whole space shimmered. That's how the holidays should be: shimmery.

On one table were some big snow-globe-style paperweights, a bowl of pretty charm bracelets, deep blue scarves dotted with mini menorahs for Hanukkah, and mugs with the words *Feliz Navidad* painted in festive red letters. Emma looked through a pile of cookbooks, and Olivia was trying to decide if she wanted a snowman pot holder in green or red.

Right away I spotted an awesome pair of purple gloves that were perfect for my mom. The price was even more perfect!

Nearby, April grabbed a restaurant gift card from a shiny spinning rack on another table. On the gilded envelope was printed *$50*. She went up to the register and paid cash from the stash in her purse.

"Wow, fifty bucks?" I whispered to April when she came back. I glanced down at my $5 gloves. "That's a lot of money, isn't it?"

"Like I said, I've been saving since summer," April reminded me, waving the card in my face.

Illustrations: Genevieve Kote

"Hey, check this out!" Emma called. She held up a book called *Festive Veggie Bakeoff.* "My parents don't eat meat. This is *perfect.*"

April looked over at the book. "Tofu tarts? *Blecch.*"

"Hey! My mom *likes* tofu," Emma shot back.

"Not everyone eats the same stuff, April," Olivia said, sounding annoyed.

April shrugged and began to flip through a cookbook called *Holiday Baking.* She opened it to a chocolate cupcake recipe.

"This book sounds yummier than that book," April said.

"Nah, I'm sticking with tofu," said Emma.

We made our way over to another table with a display of teeny-tiny Christmas ornaments that were more in line with my budget. I spotted a snowman in a red bandanna. Dad would love it for our tree.

At the next table, April held up a tie that had little teddy bears wearing red and green vests. "This is nice, don't you think?" she asked the three of us.

"I guess," Emma said unenthusiastically, turning away. "If you like dorky-looking bears."

"My dad would never wear *that,*" Olivia added.

"Oh," April mumbled. I could tell that she was embarrassed.

"Personally, I like teddy bears," I said in a reassuring voice, trying to be nice.

But April put the tie down and slinked back to the cookbooks.

"Guys," I whispered to Emma and Olivia, "cut it out. Why are you acting this way?"

Olivia leaned in close to me. "Because April Wu thinks she's better than everyone else. That's why."

I didn't know what to say, so I walked over to buy my stuff.

After a few minutes, Ms. Finkel called, "OK, class! It's time to wrap it up!"

All at once, April ran up and grabbed my sleeve. Her eyes were huge, and she looked scared.

"What's the matter?" I asked.

"My gift card! It's *gone*!" April cried.

I glanced around. "N-n-no," I stammered. "It can't be gone. Where did you have it last?"

April looked as if she might burst into tears. "I don't know."

Olivia and Emma heard the commotion and came over. "Didn't you put it into your purse?" Olivia asked in a taunting way.

"No," April gasped. "I don't think so."

"Someone probably stole it," Olivia said.

"You think someone *took* it?" April whispered.

Olivia nodded, and I glared at her. "We should help April look for the card, Olivia," I said.

"Yeah, we should," Emma said.

"Fine," Olivia grumbled.

Ms. Finkel gave the four of us permission to form a search party after the rest of the class returned to the classroom. For the next five minutes, we examined shelves, tables, and the library floor. Emma searched the table with the snow globes. Olivia volunteered to check the cookbook table. I checked

the spinner rack, just to see if the card had been dropped, found, and put back there by mistake.

"Yikes," Emma said as we searched the room. "It's like a *ghost* took it, right?"

April's chest heaved up and down. "I saved all my money..."

"Since summer. Yeah, we know," Olivia sighed.

"It has to be somewhere," I said. "April, you probably just put it—"

"HERE!" Olivia held up a gold envelope.

"Oh! You found it?" April cried. "Oh, Olivia, thank you so much! I must have lost it by the cookbooks when I—"

"Yeah, it was right here between pages 125 and 126 of the baking book," Olivia said.

"Really?" I asked.

"Yes, I found it right here. April must have misplaced it while we were shopping."

"I wouldn't be so sure," I interrupted.

"Huh?" April said. She looked confused. So did Emma and Olivia.

"April didn't lose the card," I continued. "Someone definitely took it. I think I know who—and why."

Who took April's gift card? How does Vanessa know that person's identity? Turn to page 32 for the solution.

We shuffled back to class without saying much. But I could tell that April was still upset. On the way, she whispered in my ear, "I'll get her back for that."

"OK, girls, take a seat," Ms. Finkel said as we walked back into our classroom.

The other students chuckled. Of course we couldn't take a seat. There weren't any! All of the chairs had been pushed to the edges of the room.

Ms. Finkel and her assistant had organized our desks into one enormous "table" at the center of the room. It was the perfect place to set up and display the snowy village we'd worked on all week long.

The village had been created from toothpicks, cotton balls, glitter, and glue. Ms. Finkel showed us how to use basic math to build things. Our heads had buzzed with *scale*, *measure*, *ratio*, and other key math concepts. I liked the village because it was super shimmery.

"Be careful," Ms. Finkel cautioned to anyone who was hovering over the village. "Those sculptures are delicate. If you lean or bump into the desks— even just a little bit— everything will come crashing down. And watch out for the cupcakes at the back of the room, too."

"Uh, Ms. Finkel, what *can* we touch?" groaned our class wise guy, Warren Pzudnick.

Ms. Finkel ignored him. "Put your boutique purchases into your cubbies," she said. "Mouse races start in a few minutes, and we need to get to the auditorium. Busy, busy, busy!"

"Know what? I think I like the school festival better this year," I whispered to Emma as we headed for the auditorium.

I had begun today thinking that the only thing I would catch this winter was the flu. But maybe I'd catch a little bit of holiday spirit after all.

I was excited to see the mice again. One of the other teachers, Mr. Walker, had taught us a unit on animal behavior, and we had observed these cute little mice earlier in the fall. They loved going through mazes to get treats, and now they would get another chance. The auditorium was brightly lit and decorated with five enormous posters. Mr. Walker had added Santa hats to pictures of the mice and labeled each poster with a mouse's name.

"Students, take a seat," Mr. Walker said. "I know some of you won't be able to see as well as others, so I'm projecting video on this larger screen over here. Now, let's meet our mice!"

Mr. Walker told us which mouse was which. Then he gently placed the mice into an enormous maze racetrack.

I watched the action on the big screen and paid attention to which mouse was headed into which part of the maze. But it was hard to keep track of this track! Thankfully, Mr. Walker gave us an entertaining play-by-play. After the last mouse crossed the finish line, he announced the results.

Well, he *sort of* announced the results.

"Whiskers finished ahead of Squeak but behind Wiggler! Rosie finished way ahead of Spots but behind Squeak!" Mr. Walker grinned as he said it.

Emma giggled. "What did he say?"

I smiled. I knew *exactly* who had won the race, and who came in second, third, fourth, and fifth. Mr. Walker had given us all the clues we needed.

Can you figure out the race results? Turn to page 32 for the solution.

We made a lot of noise as we left the mouse races. In fact, we were so busy chatting that we weren't paying attention when we got back to our classroom.

Ms. Finkel gasped as we walked in. "Oh, dear!"

What was wrong? I wondered. The toothpick sculptures were still standing up in the center of the room. The books were all on the shelves. But the back of our classroom was a mess.

A full tray of cupcakes had smashed to the floor.

"Students, how did that happen?" Ms. Finkel demanded, pointing.

No one answered. No one breathed.

Ms. Finkel asked a few students to get a roll of paper towels and a broom. She got some cleaner for the floor. Two boys carefully moved the remaining cupcake trays to the other side of the room. Olivia and I went over to the mess to take a closer look.

Who could have done this? And why?

So far today, I'd figured out the gift-card mystery and named the winners of the mouse race. Maybe I could crack this mystery, too. I decided to do some detective work.

I noticed that one of the boys standing nearby had something blue on his shirt. I edged closer to him, thinking that maybe it was blue frosting...

But then I realized it was just marker ink.

April came into the room and hurried over to Emma and Olivia. She came right up beside Olivia but then backed away just as quickly.

Then I saw her shoes.

"April," I said, pointing at her feet. "What's that?"

There was no denying it: smudges of blue frosting dotted her shoes.

April pointed at a blue smear on Olivia's skirt. "Why pick on me? She has frosting, too!"

I scratched my head. *Both* girls had frosting on them. I knew this had to be some kind of evidence right in front of me. But who was *really* responsible for the cupcake disaster? I needed more facts.

"Hey, I saw this mess at the same time everyone else did!" Olivia exclaimed. "*Honest.*"

"Well, I was just in the girls' bathroom!" April cried. "So it had to be Olivia."

Ms. Finkel overheard our commotion. She came over and wrinkled her brow at the three of us.

"What's going on here, girls?" Ms. Finkel asked.

"April, you tell her," I said.

April's shoulders slumped. "The truth?" she said.

"Yes," Ms. Finkel said. "Always tell the truth."

"OK," April started. "Well, I came back to class early. I was walking to the back of the room but tripped over the desks and lost my balance. Then I crashed into the cupcakes. But it was an accident! I was too embarrassed to say what had happened."

I looked at April and shook my head.

"Oh, April," I sighed. "You're not telling the truth. I can prove it."

How did Vanessa know that April was not telling the truth? What really happened? Turn the page for the solution.

April, Olivia, Emma, and I huddled together at the end of the day. The festival had been a day of ups and downs. Even though only April and Olivia had been punished, Ms. Finkel seemed to be upset with all four of us. She had asked us to clean up the cupcake mess and made us promise that we wouldn't tell any more fibs.

"I'm really sorry for anything I did to hurt your feelings," Olivia confessed to April as we cleaned.

April sighed. "I'm sorry, too. I never should have made up that story. I feel awful about it."

Emma crossed her arms and raised her eyebrows. "I'm sorry that I have to clean up your mess!" she joked. "But seriously, I think we should make a promise to be better friends."

"Holiday group hug?" I suggested with a grin.

That day, we learned more about how to treat one another than we ever expected. It was the right kind of holiday spirit. And it made up for my bad Secret Santa *and* the red nose incident combined.

Together, April, Olivia, Emma, and I decided that our new friendship vow was the very best part of this holiday festival.

Well, the *second* best part, anyway.

The first best part, of course, were the delicious frosted cupcakes. Since some had been smashed, we shared. ★

Holiday Hijinks

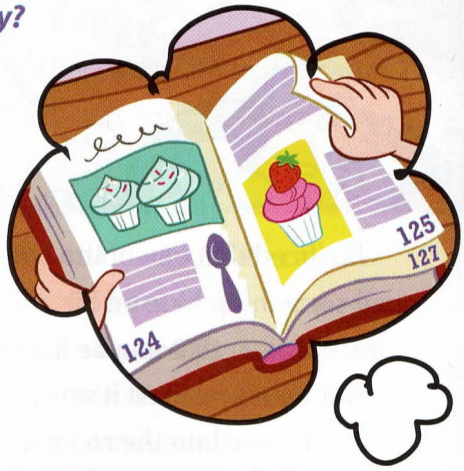
Solutions to the mini mysteries

Who took April's gift card? How does Vanessa know that person's identity?

Vanessa knew that there was no way the gift card could have been where Olivia said she'd found it, between pages 125 and 126 of the cookbook. That's impossible because those pages are back-to-back in a book.

Vanessa decided that Olivia was lying about where she'd found the gift card to cover up the fact that *she* had taken the card. Well, she hadn't exactly stolen it. Olivia picked up the card when April set it down. Rather than return it right away, she had decided to hide it in order to teach April a lesson about bragging and showing off.

In the end, Olivia admitted what she had done. The girls agreed not to tell so that no one would be in trouble. April said she wasn't mad, but she had an odd look on her face when she said it.



Can you figure out the race results?

First place: Wiggler
Second place: Whiskers
Third place: Squeak
Fourth place: Rosie
Fifth place: Spots

How did Vanessa know that April wasn't telling the truth?

Vanessa knew April was guilty for several reasons: First, April had said she would get back at Olivia. April also had frosting on her shoes. She had left the mouse races early to use the bathroom, so she would have had time to wreck the cupcakes. Olivia had frosting on her skirt, but Vanessa didn't remember seeing it before April came in. Finally—and most important—April said she'd crashed into the table containing the toothpick village. Ms. Finkel had warned that touching the table would destroy the sculptures. But the display was fine!

April finally admitted that she'd set up the cupcake disaster. She had smeared frosting onto Olivia's skirt to try to get her in trouble for the mess. She figured that because she had smashed her own mom's cupcakes, it wouldn't matter as much.

After April apologized to Olivia and Ms. Finkel, Olivia told the teacher what she'd done to April earlier. As a punishment, Ms. Finkel told both girls that they would have to stay in at recess for the rest of the month to help clean and organize the classroom.

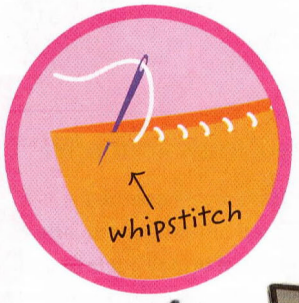
Warm & Fuzzy

by Aubre Andrus

Winter days just got cozier with these soft and snuggly crafts.

Polar Flair

Add style to gloves or a hat. Thread a long length of yarn through a plastic yarn needle, then double-knot the end. Use a running stitch or whipstitch to sew a line of stitches along the cuffs of gloves or the edge of a hat.



Music Minder

Turn a lonesome mitten into a cute carrier for an MP3 player. Thread a plastic yarn needle with a length of yarn. Starting on the outside of the mitten's cuff, stitch around the cuff, ending on the outside. (Make sure to leave about 6 inches of excess yarn at both the beginning and end.) Tie the ends together in a knot. Then place the MP3 player inside the mitten, and pull the yarn drawstring tight.

Notebook Blanket

A cozy cover makes a journal extra snuggly. Open a composition notebook and lay it flat. Cut a piece of fleece that's a few inches larger than the open notebook. Use a sponge brush to coat the cover with tacky glue. Attach the fleece to the cover, and smooth any wrinkles. Let dry. Use scissors to trim the fleece along the edge of the notebook. Next, cut a strip of fleece that's long enough to wrap around your notebook. Attach a piece of Velcro® brand hook-and-loop fastener to each end of the fleece strip. Use the strip to hold the notebook closed.

Book Buddy

Reading is more fun with a furry friend. Glue a 10-inch piece of ribbon between two felt circles. Create an animal face by using glue to attach felt pieces for the nose, ears, and mouth. Finish by attaching googly eyes with craft glue.

Fuzzy Photos

Add some felt funnies to a photo. (Make sure you use a copy or a photo you won't need to use again.) Using the **photo** to judge the size, draw a snowman shape onto a piece of **felt.** Cut out the snowman and fold it in half. Cut a half circle into the head. Attach the snowman to the photo with **Glue Dots®.** Cut felt extras such as a hat, scarf, or buttons. Attach to the snowman with **craft glue.**

Feather Frame

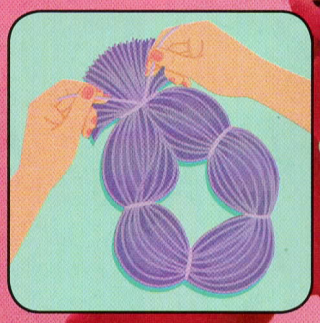
Add feathery fringe to a frame. Cut four pieces of **ribbon-edged feather trim** that will fit along the edges of a **photo frame.** Attach the trim to the frame with **craft glue.**

Cuddly Cowl

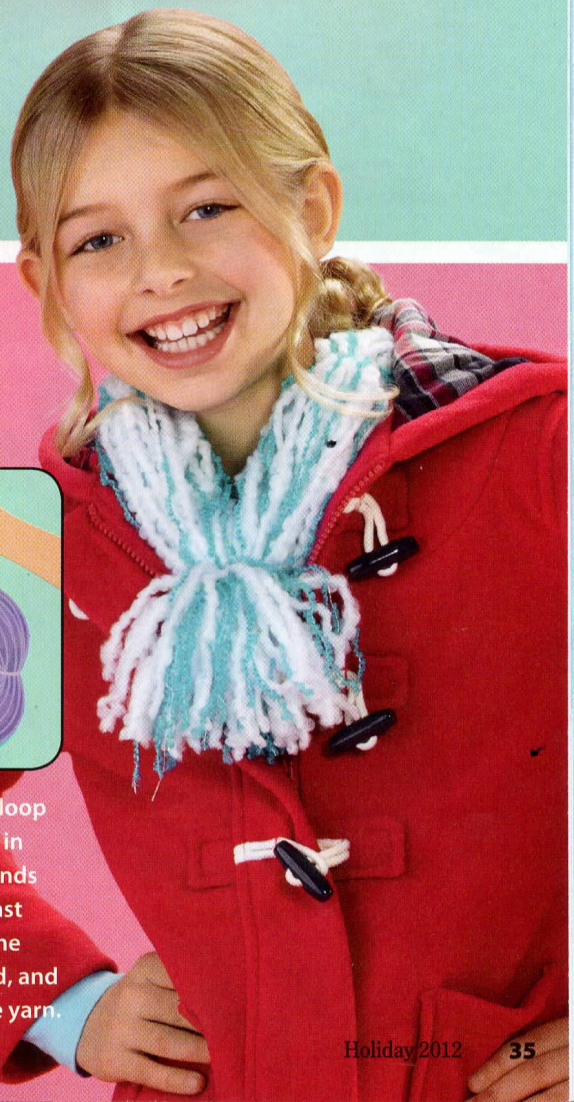
Keep out the cold with a cute neck warmer.

1. Cut many 1-yard-long pieces of **yarn** until you have a thick bundle (at least 40 strands). Gather the strands together.

2. Cut seven 8-inch pieces of **yarn.** Double-knot an 8-inch piece of yarn every 6 inches along the scarf to hold it together. Trim the ends of the knotted pieces.



3. Make a continuous loop by folding the scarf in half and tying the ends together with the last piece of yarn. Slip the cowl over your head, and fluff the ends of the yarn.

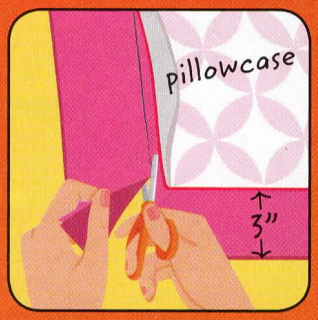


Pretty Presents

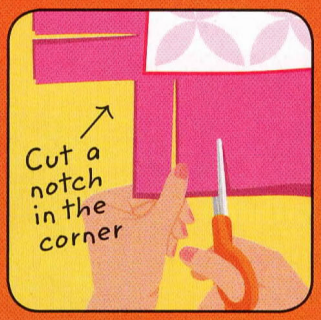
Turn a gift box into a pretty present. Measure one side of a **square gift box.** Now cut two **felt** strips that are the same width as the box, but three times the length. Starting with the top, **glue** the felt strip around the box vertically. Now glue the second piece of felt horizontally across the remaining three sides. Decorate the box with felt strips and a bow.

Plush Pillow

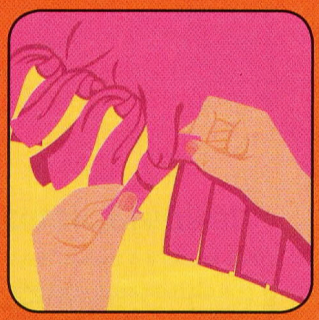
You'll have no problem snoozing on this comfy case.



1. Using a **pillowcase** as a guide, cut 2 rectangles of **fleece.** The rectangles should be 3 inches larger than the pillowcase on each side except for the open end.



2. Lay the 2 rectangles on top of each other. Then snip 3-inch slits around three sides, leaving the open end unfringed. (This is where you will slide in your pillow.)



3. Knot the top layer of fringe to the bottom layer all around the three sides. Put your pillow inside the case when you're finished. Cozy!

Fleece Headband

Ask an adult to help you cut a piece of **fleece** that's about 3-4 inches wide and long enough to wrap around your head. Attach a piece of **adhesive-backed Velcro® brand hook-and-loop fastener** to both ends. Wrap the headband over your ears, and fasten at the back.

Cozy Pocket

A pocket turns a simple shirt into a toasty tee! (Be sure to ask a parent's permission first.) Cut a rectangle from a piece of **fleece.** Draw a line of **fabric glue** along the top and bottom of the rectangle. Press the pocket onto the center bottom of a shirt. Let dry.

Fun Fuzzballs

Everything pops with pom-poms! Wrap yarn around 3 or 4 fingers about 30 times, and cut the end loose. Remove the loop from your fingers, and tightly tie a short piece of yarn around the center in a double knot. Trim the excess ends. Snip the loops to create a pom-pom.

Here are some ways to use your pretty poufs:

1. Dress up a ponytail. Tie pom-poms to a **hair elastic.** Use it to gather your hair into a ponytail.

2. Make a garland. Thread a **plastic yarn needle** with a long piece of **yarn.** String your pom-poms on the yarn by pushing the needle through the center of each pom-pom.

3. Sweeten your shoes. Tie a pom-pom onto a **bobby pin.** Slide the bobby pin onto plain flats or the shoelaces of your sneakers.

Instant Warmth

Be sure to ask a parent's permission before doing this craft. Use scissors to cut off the sleeves of a too-small sweater. Layer over your shirt sleeves to wear as arm warmers! ★

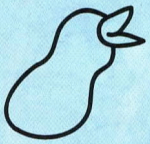
Forest Friends

Draw a snowy scene full of adorable animals!

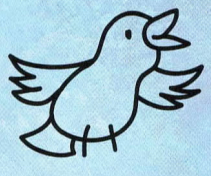
by Kristi Thom

Little Bird

1. Draw a beak. Add the body.



2. Draw wings and a tail. Add an eye and legs.



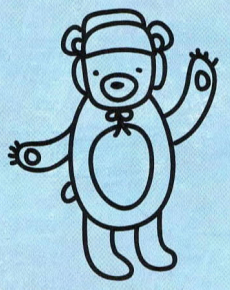
3. Add a cap and boots.

Bear

1. Draw a U for the head. Add the hat flap, eyes, and snout.

2. Draw ears, hat flaps, and bow. Draw the body.

3. Add legs, pads, claws, belly, and a tail.



Bunny

1. Draw a puff. Add a head with 2 ears.

2. Draw the face. Finish the earmuffs. Draw the body.

3. Draw the legs and belly. Add a tail.

Owl

1. Draw the top of the head. Add a wide blob.

2. Add eyes and a beak. Draw the body.

3. Draw wings and feet. Add scarf details.

Squirrel

1. Draw a puff. Add an ear and the back. Add a sideways V for the head.

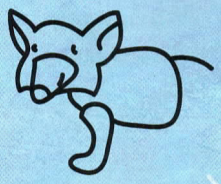
2. Draw an arm, mitten, and box. Add a leg. Draw the face.

3. Add a tail, leg, and arm. Draw the hat. Finish the present.

Fox

1. Draw a rounded triangle. Add the head and pointy ears.

2. Finish the face. Draw the vest. Add a leg and the back.

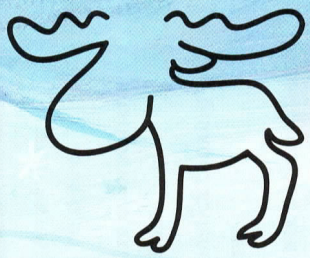


3. Draw the tail. Add legs. Finish the vest.

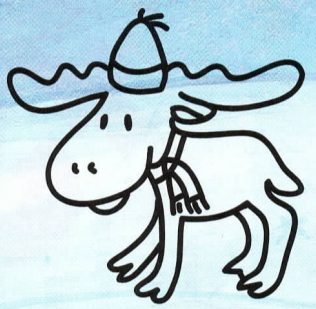
Moose

1. Draw 2 antlers. Add a curve and a little ear.

2. Draw 2 legs, a body, and a tail.



3. Add 2 more legs. Draw a face, hat, and scarf. ★



Color illustrations: Carol Yoshizumi

Star Light, Star Bright!

Bake a galaxy of sweet stars.

YOU WILL NEED

- An adult to help you
- 1 cup colored hard candies
- Nonstick cooking spray
- 1 stick butter, softened
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ teaspoon vanilla
- 1 egg
- 1½ cups flour
- Star cookie cutters (2 sizes)

1. Put unwrapped candies in a plastic zip-top bag and seal. Place bag in another plastic bag and seal. Wrap in a dish towel and place on a cutting board. Ask an adult to break candy into small bits using a hammer. Set aside. Cover a baking sheet with foil. Spray with nonstick cooking spray. Set aside.

2. Ask an adult to preheat oven to 350 degrees. Wash hands. Combine butter, sugar, and vanilla in bowl with fork. In a separate bowl, beat egg with fork. Add to butter mixture and mix well. Stir in flour. Squeeze mixture with your hands to form dough. If dough feels sticky, add a little more flour.

3. Sprinkle flour on work surface and roll dough to ¼-inch thickness. Cut out cookies using larger star cookie cutter. Place cookies on baking sheet. Dip the smaller star cookie cutter in flour and cut small stars out of large star cookies. Remove small stars and set aside to reroll and reuse dough.

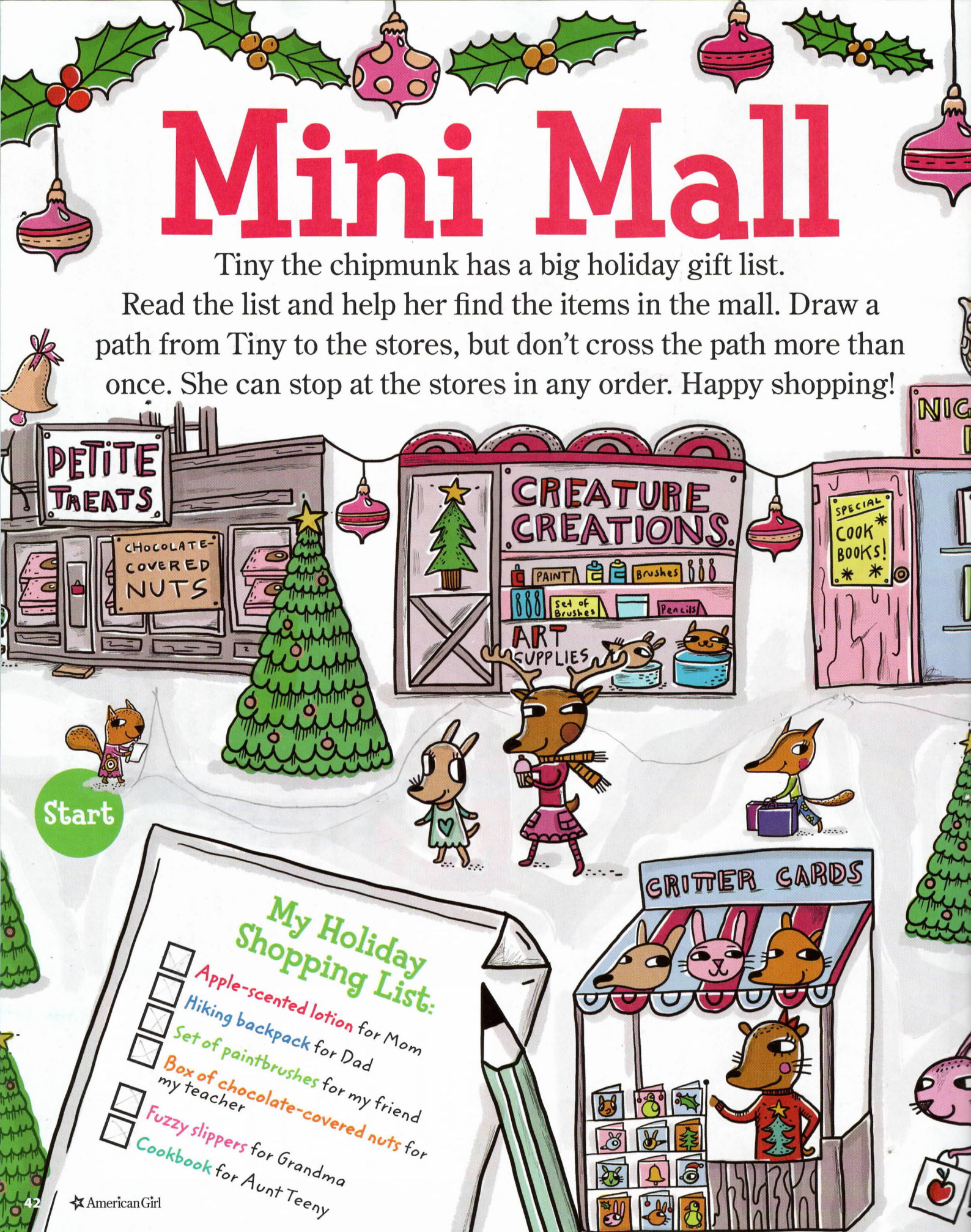
4. Ask an adult to bake cookies 4 minutes, and then remove baking sheet from oven. Let cool. Carefully put candy pieces inside each star, making sure to fill in tips of stars. (Candy will melt and spread.) Ask an adult to bake cookies again until candy is just melted and dough is light brown, about 5 to 7 more minutes.

5. Ask an adult to remove baking sheet from oven. Let cookies stand until completely cool, about 30 minutes. (If you try to remove cookies too soon, they will crack.) Peel foil off backs of cookies. Now you can nibble the cookie crusts and savor the hard candy centers! ★

Photo: Howard Bjornson Styling: Tobe LeMoine Illustrations: Monika Roe

Mini Mall

Tiny the chipmunk has a big holiday gift list. Read the list and help her find the items in the mall. Draw a path from Tiny to the stores, but don't cross the path more than once. She can stop at the stores in any order. Happy shopping!



Illustrations: Binny Talib

Shopping Stumpers

Look at the maze to answer these questions.

1. What shape is on Tiny's sweater?
2. How much is one bag of roasted nuts?
3. Count all of the striped ornaments.
4. What kind of animal is Santa Claus?
5. How many shopping bags are there?
6. Where would you buy colored pencils?
7. What are three words that mean "tiny"?
8. Where would you go to find snowshoes?
9. What fruit-scented lotions are sold at Squeaky Clean?
10. How many animals are in this scene?

Answers:

This is one way to solve the maze. You can try other routes, too!

Shopping Stumpers

1. Flower
2. 50 cents
3. 7
4. Bear
5. 3
6. Creature Creations
7. Mini, petite, teeny
8. Nature Nook
9. Apple, pear, strawberry
10. 56 (don't forget each bunny slipper!)

Have a tweet holiday!

Photo: iStockphoto/Andrew_Howe

Posters Carefully cut along the dotted lines to remove your posters.

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Photo: © iStockphoto/KeithSzafranski

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Time fur a nap

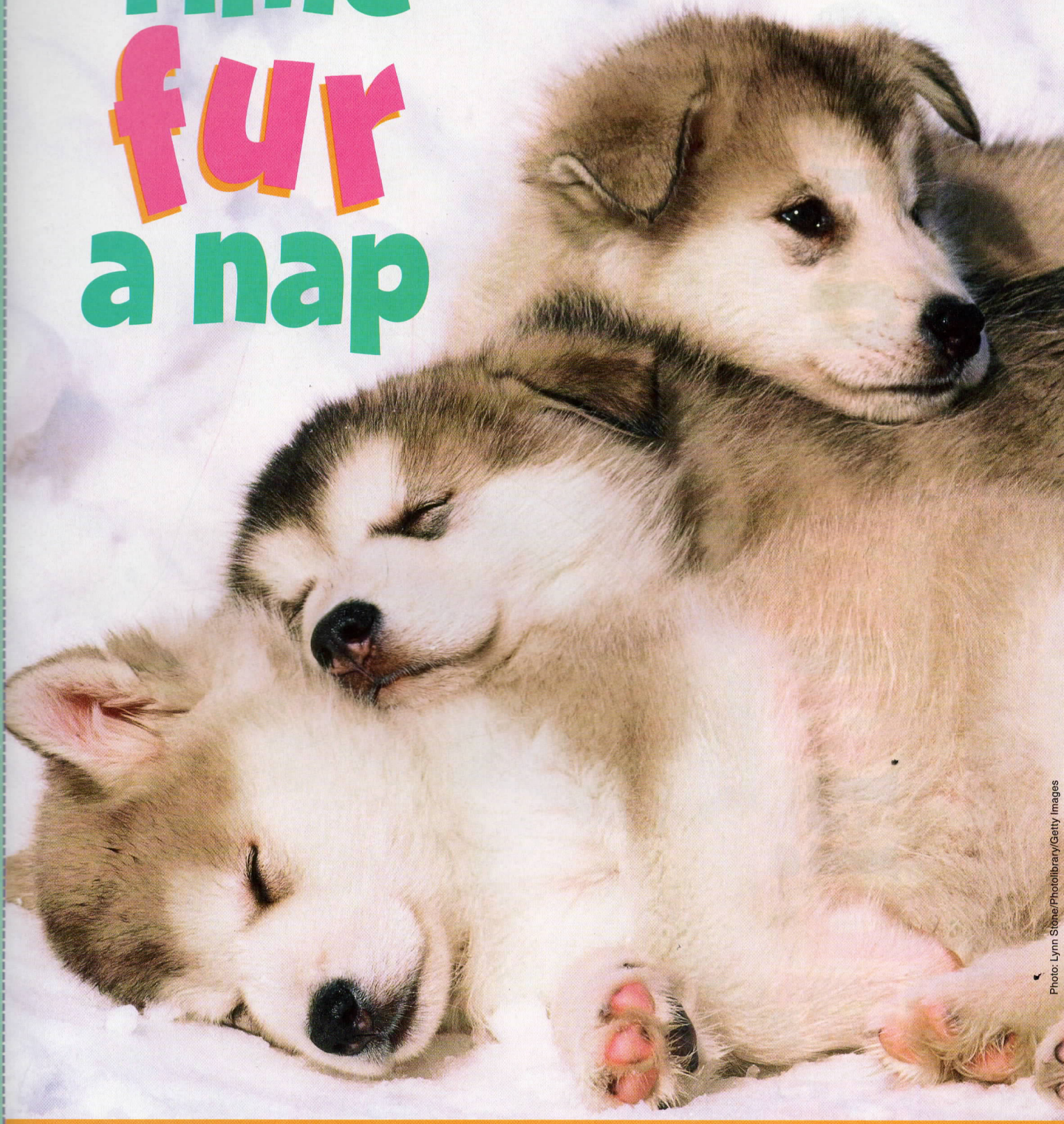

Photo: Lynn Stone/Photolibrary/Getty Images

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"Let's make snow angels!"

Even though we didn't use this shot of our cover model, Sophia, we think it's pretty cool!

Here's a peek at our Dream Tree photo shoot.

Getting the hair and ornaments just right...

...and making it snow!

I ♥ Snow

Behind the Scenes

Happy Holidays from *American Girl!*

A bonus "Warm & Fuzzy" felt craft!

Make a pet penguin. Wrap a piece of **black felt** around a **toilet paper tube** and attach with **glue.** Cut off excess felt. With an adult, cut off one end of the tube on a diagonal. Cut an oval shape for a face and attach to the top of the tube with **craft glue.** Cut two long black ovals (for the wings) and a long white oval (for the tummy) from **felt.** Attach a piece of **yellow felt** (for the beak) and **googly eyes** with craft glue to finish the face.

Frosty

Lucky

Oliver

Jaya Elle M., age 13, of North Carolina got into the holiday spirit when she drew these pictures of her cat and bunny. *Meow-y* Christmas and a *Hoppy* New Year, Jaya!

Photos: Steven Tahy; Radlund Studios

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5 great ways to use these stickers:

1. Decorate a Goody Bag or any wrapped gift.

2. Seal the envelope of a holiday greeting card.

3. Use them to mark off each day on a calendar as you count down to the end of the year!

4. Attach to a flat sheet magnet. Cut around the stickers for merry mini magnets!

5. Create a scene on a clean jar for a festive pencil cup.

AG's Holiday Stickers

Spread cheer with these sweet stickers.

Illustrations: Helen Dardik

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January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		New Year's Day 1	school starts Christmas break ends 2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (observed) 21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	Groundhog Day 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chinese New Year 10	11	12	13	Valentine's Day 14	15	16
17	Presidents' Day 18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

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March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
St. Patrick's Day 17	18	19	First Day of Spring 20	21	22	23
24 / Easter 31	Passover begins (sunset) 25	26	27	28	29	30

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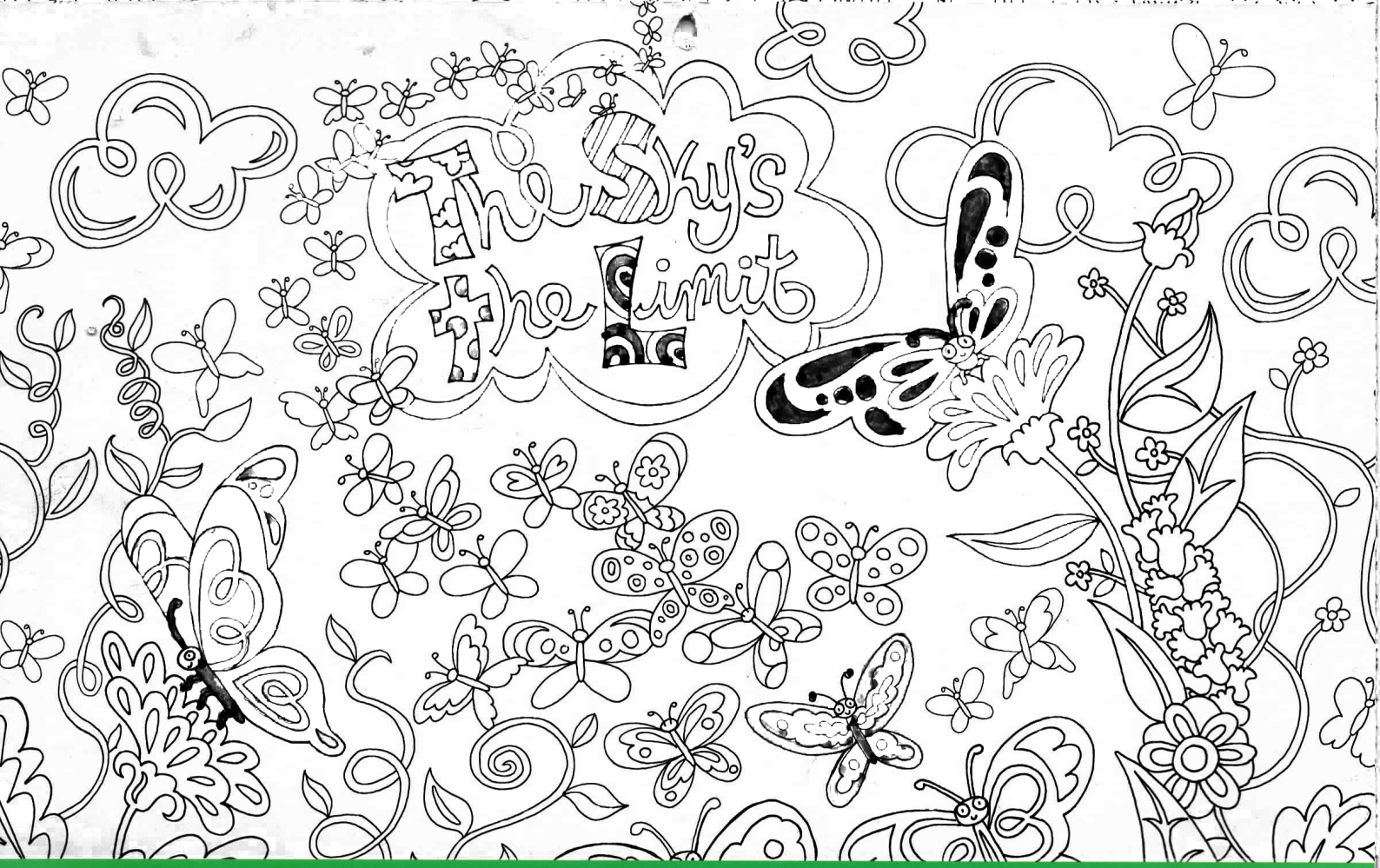
April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	April Fools' Day 1	Passover ends (sunset) 2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	Earth Day 22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



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May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
Cinco de Mayo 5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Mother's Day 12	13	14	15	16	Last day of school! half day 17	18
19	Last day 20	21	22	23	24	25
26	Memorial Day (observed) 27	28	29	30	31	

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June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	Flag Day 14	15
Father's Day 16	17	18	19	20	First Day of Summer 21	22
23 30	24	L bdac 3 25	26	27	28	29

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July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Canada Day 1	2	3	Independence Day 4	5	6
7	8	Ramadan begins 9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Ramadan ends	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Labor Day	3	4 Rosh Hashanah begins (sunset)	5	6 Rosh Hashanah ends (sunset)	7
8 Grandparents' Day	9	10	11	12	13 Yom Kippur begins (sunset)	14 Yom Kippur ends (sunset)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 First Day of Fall	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

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October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Columbus Day (observed) Thanksgiving (Canada)	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween		

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November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Hanukkah begins (sunset)	28 Thanksgiving	29	30

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December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	Hanukkah ends (sunset) 5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	First Day of Winter 21
22	23	24	Christmas 25	Kwanzaa begins Boxing Day (Canada) 26	27	28
29	30	New Year's Eve 31				

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